(b) if so, the increase in the number of tourists in 1996 in comparison to 1995;

(c) the income earned by Madhya Pradesh from the visits of foreign tourists to Khajuraho Temple;

(d) whether with a view to attend more foreign tourists the Government have formulated any scheme to provide more facilities to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) According to the statistics available from the State Government, the number of foreign tourists visiting Khajuraho registered an increase of about 15.5% during 1996 over the previous year.

(c) The income from tourists are not estimated place-wise.

(d) and (e) The development of tourist facilities at any particular place is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, a sum of Rs. 30.79 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Central Department of Tourism for the construction of a Tourist Reception Centre at Khajuraho during 1990-91.

Termination of Services under Wage Payment Act

950. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases regarding termination of services under Wage Payment Act, 1936 Minimum Wage Act, 1948 and Workers Compensation Act, 1923 have been filed by the workers/representatives of the workers in labour office of NOIDA industrial centre of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special Reservation Facilities to Foreign Tourists

951. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special reservation facilities to the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Special reservation facilities are being provided by Indian Airlines to Foreign Tourists for their travel within India which include confirmed bookings upto the limit of 400 seats to all Foreign Tourists groups and individuals seeking reservation upto 60 days prior to departure of the first flight except on international sectors and on flights to/from Port Blair, Leh, North Eastern Sector on domestic network.

Indian Railways also provide special reservation facilities for foreign tourists visiting India.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion in Tamil Nadu

952. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rail lines being converted into broad gauge in Tamil Nadu, project-wise;

(b) the total funds sanctioned for gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu during the current financial year;

(c) the total funds utilised and rail lines converted into broad gauge, so far project-wise;

(d) the steps taken for converting the rail lines between Thanjavur and Chennai beach;

(e) the time by which the complete rail track is likely to be converted into broad gauge; and

(f) the total funds released for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) to (f) Gauge Conversion of Madras Beach - Tiruchchirappalli and Tiruchchirappalli - Thanjavur - Nagore-Karaikal railway lines has been taken up. These works are now likely to be completed by March' 98 and Dec.'98 respectively. Outlay for these works in 96-97 was Rs. 100 crores and in 97-98 it is Rs. 144 crs.

Statement

(Rupees in Crores)

S.No.	Project	kms.	Cost	Outlay for 1996-97	Funds utilised upto 31.03.96	Distance converted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Madras Beach-Tiruchchirappalli-Dindigul	340	300.00	75.00	100.40	Madras Beach-Tambaram (27kms)